

Controversy 'Dragon' on

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — It appears there's only one way to resolve a disputed-decision controversy in a World Championship Wrestling world title match: have another disputed decision.

And so it was Sunday night when WCW world champ Ric Flair and IWGP world champ Tatsumi (Dragon) Fujinami got it on again at the "SuperBrawl '91" pay-per-view show here.

At their first meeting in Tokyo, referee Bill Alfonso had been knocked out of action and replaced by Masao Hattori, who awarded the match and WCW title to Fujinami via a pin. But WCW claimed the pin shouldn't count since Hattori wasn't the legal ref, and that Flair had won via disqualification since Fujinami had thrown him over the top rope — a violation of WCW rules.

The American pay-per-view rematch was more of the same — with the referees switching roles and a different winner. Hattori was knocked out and sub ref Alfonso jumped into the ring and counted as Flair pinned Fujinami's shoulders to a mixed reaction from the near-sellout crowd of 6,000.

While the match between the two champs was the headliner, it was hardly the only memorable thing about a show that had some major ups and downs.

Certainly the highlight was the tag team title match involving WCW and Japanese champs Rick and Scott Steiner defending against Sting and Lex Luger. The rare match of "baby-faced" teams produced the most crowd heat of the night, with the Steiners having a slight advantage when it came to crowd support. The teams traded all the hot moves in their repertoire, led by Sting running across the ring and leaping high over the ropes and splashing onto Rick Steiner. If there was a flaw to this genuine match-of-the-year candidate, it was when Nikita Koloff did a run-in at the finish that caused Sting to get pinned.

The lowlight of the show was the introduction of a new character called Oz (Kevin Nash), who was part of a skit that also featured a baby monkey, Tin Man, Cowardly Lion and a Dorothy.

Even worse from a wrestling standpoint was the final WCW appearance of Sid Vicious, who is headed to the World Wrestling Federation. Vicious expended little energy in losing to El Gigante's claw hold in 2:11. Despite stipulations that the match would continue until the loser was carried out on a stretcher, Vicious simply disappeared after the pin, leaving Gigante to carry on a battle with the One Man Gang.

ETC: The WWF's biggest show of the summer was announced for July 14 at Busch Stadium in St. Louis. It'll be the first major outdoor stadium spectacular for the WWF in a few years. Headlining will be **Hulk Hogan vs. Sgt. Slaughter** with **Randy Savage** as referee, plus **Ultimate Warrior vs. The Undertaker** with the loser having to be carried from the ring in a coffin. . . . It's probably no coincidence that WCW will present its biggest show of the summer that same night, the pay-per-view "Great American Bash" from the Baltimore Arena.



**NO
HOLDS
BARRED**

BY DAVE MELTZER
FOR THE NATIONAL

Chad
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